



Department for Transport

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From the Parliamentary
Under Secretary of State
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Dear Peter,

Thank you for your letter of 5 March, about rural transport assessments and applying 'place before movement' principles. As you may know, in 2024 the Government changed the transport policies in the National Planning Policy Framework to ensure that transport issues are considered from the earliest stages of plan-making and development proposals, using a vision-led approach to identify transport solutions that deliver well-designed, sustainable and popular places. This should involve making transport considerations an important part of early engagement with local communities and ensuring that patterns of movement, streets, parking and other transport considerations are integral to the design of schemes and contribute to making high quality places.

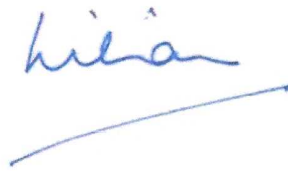
Further changes to the National Planning Policy Framework were consulted on earlier this year to further embed vision-led approaches to transport assessments. The Government are currently considering the representations made during this consultation and will issue a response in due course. To complement this, the Government have already committed to publishing updated Planning Practice Guidance for transport assessments, which will help local authorities and communities understand and implement this new approach in a way that is helpful to your constituents and local Parish Councils.

In addition, my Department has recently developed and launch the Government's Connectivity Tool, a national metric of connectivity that combines land use and transport data in an innovative way to generate a 'connectivity score' for every location across England and Wales at a resolution of 100 metre by 100 metre squares. This score measures people's ability to get where they want and need to go, using walking, cycling and public transport to reach jobs, shops, schools, healthcare and other essential services.

This platform will help local authorities and developers to plan for new development and the transport infrastructure needed to support it, ensuring new homes and services can be easily accessed by sustainable modes of transport, helping kickstart economic growth and delivering on our house building ambitions. It will also help to target investment in transport infrastructure that enhances connectivity to underserved communities and improving their access to opportunities.

Due to the quasi-judicial role, the Secretary of State for Transport adopts in the planning system, I am unable to comment further on any of the specific applications of concern to your constituents, but I trust this letter clarifies the Government's position in relation to the publication of further guidance on transport assessments.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lilian', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

LILIAN GREENWOOD MP
MINISTER FOR LOCAL TRANSPORT